

SB2268 RELATING TO QUEEN LILIUOKALANI

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 23, 2012	9:00 a.m.	Room 211
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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) SUPPORTS SB2268, which would require that the inscription on the statue of Queen Lili'uokalani on the grounds of the State Capitol be changed to reflect that she was the queen of the Kingdom of Hawai'i from her coronation on January 29, 1891, until her death on November 11, 1917.

From the moment she became queen until she died, Queen Lili'uokalani's tenure as Hawai'i's last ruling monarch was beset by political turmoil and personal distress. Her kingdom was illegally overthrown with the aid of the U.S. military, and she was imprisoned in her own palace. Through it all, she exhibited remarkable courage and an unwavering commitment to her people and her kingdom. To honor Queen Lili'uokalani, the inscription of her statue should be changed as proposed in SB2268.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



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S. B. 2268

Chair Galuteria and members of the committee, I am Eva Laird Smith, executive director of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts (SFCA) and I am pleased to offer testimony on S. B. 2268.

The State Foundation acknowledges the memory of Queen Liliu'okalani and the need to recognize her importance to Hawai'i and Hawaii's people. Should the State Legislature call for physical changes by way of primary data pertaining to the Queen's statue, the State Foundation would be honored to assist in this endeavor.

We also recommend that any new text be formulated by a legislatively appointed committee or an art advisory committee chaired by the SFCA.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you.